

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 ACDA-12 /079 W
-----017265 220701Z /12

P R 220440Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3387
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0934

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PP, ID
SUBJECT: MILITARY ACTIVITY ON BORDER

REF: PORT MORESBY 0896

1. SUMMARY: BUILDUP OF PNG DEFENCE FORCE UNITS, BEGUN
JUNE 12 (REFTEL), STEPPED UP JUNE 20-21 WITH FOUR
COMPANIES NOW COMMITTED. GPNG PUBLICIZING VIRTUALLY EVERY
MOVE IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO ASSURE INDONESIA OF ITS FIRM
INTENTION TO DENY REBELS ACCESS TO SANCTUARY IN PNG TERRITORY
WHILE INDOS PUT PRESSURE ON REBELS ACROSS THE BORDER.
SITUATION COMPLICATED JUNE 21 BY REPORTS (CONFIRMED TO US
BY PNGDF) INDONESIAN TROOPS CROSSED BORDER AND ADVANCED
10 KMS INTO PNG TERRITORY. THIS EXPECTED TO INCREASE
POLITICAL FLAK FROM BOTH OPPOSITION AND OTHERS BASICALLY
SYMPATHETIC TO REBELS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A MOVE APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO CONVINCE INDONESIA
THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO LET IRIAN JAYA REBELS USE PNG
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TERRITORY AS A SANCTUARY, PRIME MINISTER SOMARE ANNOUNCED
JUNE 20 THAT BORDER PATROLS, AUGMENTED JUNE 12 (REFTEL),
WOULD BE INCREASED FURTHER. WITHIN 48 HOURS, PNG'S
DEFENCE FORCE HAD FOUR COMPANIES IN THE AREA, DRAWN FROM
BOTH THE SECOND PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT (2 PIR) OF MOEM
BARRACKS, WEWAK, AND 1 PIR OF TAURAMA BARRACKS, PORT
MORESBY. WE NOT SURE WHETHER UNITS INCLUDE THREE INFANTRY

AND ONE SUPPORT COMPANY OR FOUR INFANTRY COMPANIES.
499 MEN NOW DEPLOYED WITH BASES AT WUTUNG, BEWANI,
IMONDA, AMANAB AND GREEN RIVER.

3. FOLLOWING VILLAGERS' COMPLAINTS THAT INDONESIAN TROOPS
WERE DESTROYING THEIR GARDENS, A PNGDF PATROL SIGHTED
INDONESIAN TROOPS NEAR KAMBERATORO, SOME 10 KMS. INSIDE
PNG TERRITORY ON JUNE 21. AT LAST REPORTS, A PNGDF
COMPANY WAS ENROUTE TO THE AREA TO "ASK THEM "THE
INDONESIANS) TO RETURN TO THE IRIAN JAYA SIDE OF THE BORDER."
MEDIA REPORTS INDONESIAN PATROL BELIEVED TO BE PART OF
COMPANY OF 100 INDONESIAN PARA-COMMANDOS OPERATING FROM
UBRUB, ABOUT 5 KMS IN IRIAN JAYA AND ABOUT 15 KMS FROM
KAMBERATORO.

4. DESPITE TECHNICALLY ACCURATE GPNG DENIALS OF
COOPERATION BETWEEN PNG AND INDO FORCES, IT OBVIOUS THAT
INDOS PUTTING PRESSURE ON WEST IRIANESE FROM THEIR SIDE
OF BORDER WHILE PNG HAS COMMITTED VIRTUALLY ALL ITS
INFANTRY TO DENY REBELS ACCESS TO REFUGE IN PNG. IN
ESSENCE, PNG WANTS TO BE ABLE TO SAY, "WE CHASED THEM
BACK AND NOW ITS UP TO YOU."

5. MEDIA PLAY HAS BEEN HEAVY AND, ACCORDING TO PNGDF
AND AUSTRALIAN SOURCES, ACCURATE. THIS LENDS CREDENCE
TO OUR BELIEF THAT GPNG'S PRINCIPAL INTENTION IS TO
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ASSURE INDONESIANS OF ITS GOOD FAITH.

6. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD AMBASSADOR
YESTERDAY THAT MARTIN TABU, HAD CROSSED BORDER WITH HIS
INDONESIAN HOSTAGES. DEPT. MAY RECALL THAT INDO
AMBASSADOR BUSIRI HAD SAID (REFTEL) TABU NEVER CROSSES
THE BORDER.

7. AUSTRALIANS BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED, PROBABLY
SUPPLYING C-130S FOR TROOP MOVEMENTS AND, THROUGH
NORMAL STAFF WORK, WITH PLANNING. HIGH COMMISSIONER
FAIRLY CLOSE-MOUTHED ABOUT OPERATION BUT DID DESCRIBE
GPNG INTENTIONS ALONG LINES DESCRIBED PARA 5
ABOVE.

8. DEFENCE FORCE OFFICERS VERY PLEASED WITH OPERATION
TO DATE. THEY BELIEVE POLITICIANS ARE BECOMING
CONVINCED THAT A DEFENCE FORCE IS NEEDED AND ARE PROUD
OF THEIR ABILITY TO PUT MOST OF THEIR UNITS INTO THE
FIELD IN REMOTE AREAS WITHIN 48 HOURS.

9. IMPACT OF INDONESIAN INCURSION NOT YET FELT BUT

IT SURE TO COME. PM SOMARE, EVENING JUNE 21,
REITERATED PNG TERRITORY MUST NOT BE USED TO SETTLE THE
IRIAN JAYA PROBLEM. ONE GOVERNMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN
HAS ALREADY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AGAINST
THE REBELS AND THE OPPOSITION IS CERTAIN TO TAKE THE
GOVERNMENT TO TASK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM00934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780260-0057
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780630/aaaaazs.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e8dbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT MORESBY 896
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2246892
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ACTIVITY ON BORDER
TAGS: PINS, PP, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e8dbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014